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438 the manufacturing towns of Kiangsu. Since the fall of Shang-
443 hai these have had to be imported with some difficulty via Hong Kong and Canton, and more recently via French Indo-China. In consequence stocks were falling and prices rising
● 278 at the end of 1938. Medicine shops do not handle western
443 types of medicine. Their stocks include many kinds of herbs, and also highly valued medicaments of doubtful curative value such as deer and rhinoceros horn, powders made of fossil bones, and various minerals. This business is very lucrative and the owners of the medicine shops are among the richest merchants in the city. Much of their raw material is brought from the Tibetan marches and from the un-
438 administered forest tracks of northern Burma. Chinaware,
323 by which is meant porcelain, is imported from the famous potteries in Kiangsi. This ware is used by the wealthy; a local very much cheaper pottery from Yung Pei in northern Yunnan is sold at the fortnightly markets in great quantities.

443 The shops in the city thus provide a fairly wide range of
438 better class goods, but for food supplies and the articles of everyday use the population depends on the daily markets and the fortnightly fairs. Apart from the butchers there are no shops selling produce in the city. Vegetables, fish, rice, and grain are sold daily in the street markets which open about ten o'clock in the morning, when the peasants reach the city, and are usually over by four in the afternoon, when the country people set off for the villages before darkness can overtake them on the way.

The fortnightly "great markets" are held on the second and sixteenth of every lunar month on open spaces inside the north and south gates respectively. These fairs in fine weather attract very large numbers of people from the country and even from districts distant three days journey. During the morning all roads and paths leading towards the city are thronged with peasants and traders, women being

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for sale, and there are the usual restaurant booths and tea houses, always crowded, and serving excellent and tasty meals cooked on an improvised stove of stones and clay. At least one half of the fair ground is occupied by the tents and booths of the medicine merchants, for this fair is above all famous as a market for drugs and herbs. The merchants, some of whom are from the marches of Tibet, bring enormous quantities of these goods to the Third Month Fair, which is attended by buyers representing the great medicine firms of the coastal cities and even of such distant places as Peking. The strange ingredients used in Chinese medicine, deer and rhinoceros horns, rare fungi from the forests of north Burma, the caterpillar plant (which, though really a seed pod, exactly resembles a caterpillar), tiger claws, and herbs which are probably possessed of more useful properties than these things, come very largely from the wild country of south west Yunnan and the great forests along the Yunnan Tibetan border ranges. Deer horns, believed to restore sexual potency, sell at the coast for as much as 5,000 National Currency dollars the pair (nearly £250 0s. 0d.) but they must be of a special kind, only found in the Burma-Yunnan borderland, and only those from the wild deer are valuable. The merchants state that the horn of the wild deer can be readily distinguished from horn of the same species reared in captivity.

These goods can of course be obtained for comparatively low prices at the Ta Li fair, not far from their country of origin, and although the cost of transport to the coast is high, it is not difficult, comparing the cost and sale price, to understand why the Chinese medicine trade is one of the most profitable. The general merchandise imported for sale does not differ in character from that sold in the few mixed goods shops in Ta Li city, but the quality and range of the articles is superior. European or Shanghai piece goods, hats,